Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) buildings, monument and tourist spots like Qutab Minar, HumayunTomb, Red Fort in Delhi, and in different other States and UTs;

(b) if so, what are the rules/regulations in force in this regard; and

(c) the details of encroachments detected, the steps taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Survey of the protected area of the centrally protected monuments is taken up as and when required. Archaeological Survey of India has conducted survey around the Qutab Minar, Humayuns tomb and Red Fort.

(b) As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959,1992, 100 metres area around the protected area is declared as prohibited area where no new construction is allowed and further 200 metres from the prohibited area is declared as regulated area where construction activities are regulated by controlling height of the new constructions.

(c) Whenever encroachment in the protected area is noticed, demolition order is issued and implemented with the help of police, Municipal corporations, district authorities, local bodies and wherever necessary legal action is also taken.

Rock-cut Caves in Vidarbha

1518. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India are aware that a set of rock-cut caves belonging to Megalithic period have been found in some districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. No megalithic caves have been reported from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra so far.